

MINUTES OF MEETING

Parks, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board – March 24, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Miller, Hilarie Engle, Chuck Vertrees, Helen Carter, Kari Kostka (via phone)

ABSENT: Emily Reaves, Scott Frey

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Edwards, Candy Hahlbeck

OTHER: Commissioner Davidson, Brent Moore (Development Services)

INTRODUCTION:

C. Miller called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. No conflicts of interest were declared by Advisory Board members.

H. Carter moved to approve the February 24th minutes. H. Engle 2nd. Motion passed.

SUBCOMITTEE REPORTS:

H. Carter was able to set up meetings with people who use the Bike Park as pedestrians. One person is a bike rider and the other is a dog walker. Both of these people have no concerns with having their dog on leash. They are concerned at times with other dogs not being on a leash. There are also no concerns about dog poop at the park. They did have concerns with trails walkers and mountain bikers interacting on the trail. They would like to see a couple trails be 1-way trails. There was also a suggestion of a pedestrian only trail. This suggestion came from people who are from Boulder, Colorado and moved here in the 1980's. They have utilized the Foothills for years. In Boulder there was a citizen volunteer group that would maintain the trails and encourage people not to use muddy trails. C. Miller added that the citizens group is similar to the Ridge to Rivers Ranger program. M. Edwards added that Ridge to Rivers occasionally has a presence at the Bike Park. He thinks having a volunteer group overseeing the Park is a great idea. C. Miller went on to say that having a pedestrian only trail would be difficult to manage especially in the Bike Park itself. There really aren't any pedestrian only trails in the Ridge to Rivers System. This may be an interesting long-term item to think about. R. Davidson added that his parents live in Nampa next to a nature preserve with a paved walking path. The path is clearly marked as a walking path only. This sign is mostly disregarded. His observation is that without a park ranger there writing tickets, it will be largely disregarded by the public. C. Miller added that one thing that may differ between the two situations is that in the trail system where there are pedestrian only trails, they are surrounded by other alternatives and they are largely obeyed. He went on to say that R. Davidson may have a good point that if we put in a pedestrian trail, we can't put it on its own. H. Carter added that all the people interviewed really valued the Bike Park.

C. Miller went on to add that the pedestrians also wanted a 1-way trail, which already exist. He thinks they mean more of the cross county-oriented trails. M. Edwards added that there was a pilot study done on a one-way trail. The feedback was unanimous that everyone liked that Junkyard was made into a one-way trail. As discussed in prior meetings, signs will be installed making Junkyard a perinate one-way trail.

OPEN SPACE & TRAILS

M. Edwards updated the group on his activities. He showed a PowerPoint as he talked.

Oregon Trail activities include installing signage including kiosk and maps,

Installation of pit toilet, work with BLM on environmental assessment for trail re-route and trail armoring and installation of wagon wheels near entrance signage. H. Engle inquired if there will be signs stating that you are existing with wildlife? There has been a situation with a coyote and dogs. M. Edwards responded that yes, there would be a sign.

Hubbard's activities include writing the Hubbard Reservoir Park Improvement Plan, add viewing benches, replacing the fence around the parking lot and working with Advisory Board Hubbard subcommittee. C. Miller inquired if it was on or off leash at Hubbard. M. Edwards responded that it was controlled dog off leash.

Bike Park activities include cleaning drains following rain events. A volunteer trail day has been set up for a couple days in April. We are working with SWIMBA and Eagle.

Dry Creek Ranch work includes continuing work on trail easement and write RTP grant to pay for trail development. A year ago, an easement was developed that goes from Ada/Eagle Bike Park to Dry Creek Road. The developer has been hesitant to sign the easement. They want to wait until the last phase of the development has been completed before we put in the trail.

ADJOURNMENT

C. Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:47 p.m.